

MEMORIAL

OF

THE LEGISLATURE OF TENNESSEE,

ASKING

Congress to declare Knoxville and Chattanooga ports of entry, and make appropriations for the improvement of the Tennessee river.

MARCH 2, 1846.

Referred to the Committee on Commerce, and ordered to be printed.

To the Congress of the United States :

The memorial of the Legislature of Tennessee,

RESPECTFULLY REPRESENTS :

That the Tennessee river, from its mouth to Knoxville, in East Tennessee, a distance of about 600 miles, affords an abundance of water at all seasons for useful navigation—not less, it is believed, than is in the Ohio for the same distance ; that its navigation is greatly obstructed by shoals and rapids, which might be obviated by improvements, which could be made at a moderate cost for such a work, but which are beyond the competency of a single State to remove.

That the establishment of railroad communication, which now approaches completion between the cities of Charleston and Savannah and said river in East Tennessee, adds greatly to the importance of the river as a channel for travel and transportation between the Mississippi river and a large portion of the Mississippi valley and the southern Atlantic coast.

The great length of the stream, the different States interested in its improvement, the fertility and abundant productions of the soil and country through which it passes, the exhaustless abundance of iron ore and stone coal of the finest quality, for a great distance on its margin ; the great development which such a channel of free intercommunication would give to the agricultural, mining, and manufacturing resources, and the natural wealth of a large and important section of the Union ; the great facilities and aids which it would afford to the commercial and internal trade of the country, particularly at times when the heat and sickly climate of the South, and the severity of winter at the North, interpose obstacles to a safe and speedy intercourse between the great valley and the Atlantic ; the ease and expedition with which troops and munitions of war could be transported from the interior to the seaboard—all conspire to render its improvement an object of national importance, and of great interest and advantage to the country.

That at Knoxville and Chattanooga, on the Tennessee river, a considerable commercial business is now done, which must soon very greatly increase. Wherefore,

Your memorialists respectfully ask your honorable body to declare Knoxville and Chattanooga ports of entry, and to make such appropriation of money as you in your wisdom may deem right and proper for the improvement of the navigation of said river.

Resolved by the General Assembly of the State of Tennessee, That the governor of the State be requested to transmit to our Senators and Representatives in the Congress of the United States, a copy of the foregoing memorial, with a request that they present it to their respective Houses.

BROOKINS CAMPBELL,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

H. M. WATTERSON,

Speaker of the Senate.

Passed February 2, 1846.